

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2018

Attendees: Dave Avrin, Claire Davis, Nana Welch, Dan Convissor, Melanie DuPuis, Beverly Jansen, Trustee Glenn Rosenbloom (BOT Liaison)
Guests: Trustee John Leavy, Erin Carney, Andrew Welch (no relation) and Nicole Virgona

1. Walkability Workshop response:

John described responses to the walkability workshop. Says that the suggestions made were sensible. Will be doing preliminary work to paint crosswalks and bump out some areas – that would make a pilot program. “No one thinks there’s anything bad about the proposals.” Where there’s no conflict, will do. Resonated with the whole board and great for Wayne. May outsource the striping. John thanks SHEAC for what they did.

Claire asked that there be a committee to monitor the proposals, to examine the actions on the proposals, like the labels for the recycling bins.

John: We can do this next month. It doesn’t have to wait for the comprehensive plan. Consultants have been telling us about little pocket parks.

Glen: What you gave the board is your recommendation. Now it’s just a matter of freeing up the manpower.

Claire: to do a pilot project, apply for grants. The last page has those recommendations.

Glen: We are proposing three pilots, to test it out, before you do something more permanent. Wayne’s dept overview report is very detailed.

2. 2018 Priorities

Dan: Writing up the notes from last meeting. But wasn’t sure what we decided.

Dave: Melanie suggested that we (1) adopt the implementation of the CCA, (2) incorporate what has been already done with walkability report/complete streets, (3) put what we have done and will do into a climate action plan – never developed even though we are a Climate Smart Community, (4) Sustainable watershed management.

Dan: how does this relate to last year, follow-through on recycling bin implementation?

Claire: We have done it and we don’t need to make it a priority.

3. CCA

Claire: Local law and public hearing to get a CCA contract. It’s an important meeting for people to come to.

Glen: Public hearing is required. If not a significant response, then we are done. It can be very quick, if no one wants to address.

4. Fremont Pond

Dave: Meeting on March 28th 7-8 people there. Agreed on a mission statement. Strong interest in the ice-skating program. Possibly a kayaking program in May. Committee talking to residents around Fremont Pond about lawn care and pond.

Glen: Next step entire manors, to change lawn care priorities.

5. Social Media Outreach

Nana: There should be a tie in to the village. Information is difficult to get.

Glen: What is your goal with this communication. My understanding is that you are an advisory group.

Melanie: I can understand the difference between advisory and outreach.

Claire: We can try a few things over the next few months to give people some idea.

6. Earth Day

April 21st we will be working with Peabody to have one first Earth Day event. We will be doing nature walks.

Erin: I sent information to the Hudson Independent. Several kids’ events and

pollinator garden tour.

Dave: we will be tabling with info about SHEAC, initiatives we've undertaken and the "Look for the zero" lawncare pamphlet.

Claire: Invasive plants/water conservation.

7. Climate Smart Community presentation

Nicole Virgona and Andrew Welch, Pace U Masters in Environmental Policy Program working on CSC in Pleasantville presented. Working with Pleasantville Village Administrator.

Nicole: I sent the checklist and the manual. It's interactive. Pleasantville set up a Green Team, with a government side and a community side. Can do a community side first, or start with government. You can divide the task force into various segments, according to what each person is interested in.

Andrew: Office of Climate Change is very helpful. Also a staff person in Albany who can answer questions.

Nicole: We did piggyback a lot on dept head meeting. Told them you are our community green team. We will show up to these meetings.

Andrew: Can be part of the comprehensive plan.

Dave: Kick off meeting, did talk about sustainability.

Melanie: How did you calculate the GHG baseline?

Nicole: We are doing it.

Glen: Municipal or community?

Nicole: Both.

Claire: Bhavya previously recorded that community GHG is done.

Andrew: DEC might have the documentation.

Andrew: You go through the codes. We went through zoning, auditing. Pleasantville finished its comprehensive plan last year. We can do this at the beginning.

Claire: the first section is important. We need a coordinator and a team.

Dave: Who is the coordinator?

Andrew: It can be on payroll, a consultant, and the program can have a separate committee from SHEAC. Could bog down SHEAC. For each project, choose members of the task force.

Dave: We are putting together a comprehensive plan - there's a good possible marriage here.

Andrew: Find the person who is going to own it. Key to success is engagement of the entire community.

8. May 5 Village Beautification Day -

SHEAC Riverkeeper Sweep Devries/Douglas Park. Claire at Devries: Native species planting; Erin Carney at Douglas.

9. T-shirt update:

about to order. Francois will pay for it.

10. Village Sustainable Lawn Care

Fremont Stakeholders have made this a priority

11. CSC

Glen: What should we do about CSC?

Will reach out to comprehensive plan consultants.